



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC FELON SENTENCED TO 19 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Edward O. Barry**, 40, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to 19 years in federal prison without parole. **Barry's** sentence was enhanced, Graves said, because he is an armed career offender.

On Jan. 8, 2004, **Barry** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver on Dec. 31, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Barry** has 2002 criminal felony convictions for assault and interfering with police; 2001 criminal felony convictions for driving while intoxicated, fleeing a police officer, assault and leaving the scene of an accident; 1999 criminal felony convictions for careless driving, operating a motor vehicle with an excessive blood-alcohol content and stealing; 1998 criminal felony convictions for escape, assault and driving while intoxicated; 1987 criminal felony convictions for robbery and armed criminal action; a 1985 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance; and 1981 criminal felony convictions for theft, stealing a motor vehicle and robbery.

"This is just the type of life-long, habitual criminal that Project Ceasefire was designed to target," Graves said. "Keeping guns out of the hands of repeat offenders makes neighborhoods safer. Putting them behind bars reduces crime in our community."

Barry was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an

indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 28, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **George S. Schrand, Jr.**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 21, 2004, **Schrand** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum revolver on Oct. 17, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Schrand** has several 2002 criminal felony convictions for theft, obstruction of justice, assault and battery.

Schrand was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Randy Keffer**, 34, of Butler, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 22, 2004, **Keffer** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of three firearms. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Browning 12-gauge shotgun, a SWD Cobray M-11, 9 mm pistol and an IAB 45/70 rifle on July 8, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Keffer** has two 1994 criminal felony convictions for stealing and one 1994 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

Keffer was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess Michaelson. It was investigated by the Bates County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow